

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

December 7, 2015

United States Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

(504) 862-1301
Project Manager
Neil T. Gauthier
Neil.T.Gauthier@usace.army.mil
MVN 2015-01960-CM

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
151201-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED PIPELINE IN ASCENSION, ST. JAMES, AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES

NAME OF APPLICANT: Ascension Pipeline LLC, c/o SWCA Environmental Consultants, Attn: Chuck Fontenot, 5745 Essen Lane, Suite 105, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

LOCATION OF WORK: Beginning at the Marathon Refinery in Garyville, Louisiana and proceeding west, crossing under Airline Hwy (US Hwy 61) and the Blind River, then traveling northwest through the Maurepas Wildlife Management area and crossing under four state highways and the I-10 twice then terminating at the EnLink Facility, in Geismar, Louisiana. The project will span Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, Parishes within the Lake Maurepas (08070204) hydrologic unit, as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate, deposit fill, and directionally drill for the installation and maintenance of a 12" natural gas/butane pipeline 35 miles in length. Approximately 107,745 cubic yards of native material will be excavated and re-deposited and approximately 4,010 cubic yards of concrete and crushed stone will be deposited to complete the project. Temporary work spaces will be cleared for construction and existing roads will be used for access. The proposed project will temporarily impact approximately 107.21 acres of jurisdictional forested, scrub shrub, and emergent wetlands by way of

clearing. These areas will be returned to pre-project conditions and allowed to re-vegetate naturally outside of the Maurepas Management Area and replanted inside the management area. In addition, approximately 53.86 acres of jurisdictional forested and scrub shrub wetlands will be permanently impacted and maintained as herbaceous wetland right of way. Approximately 1.58 acres of other waters of the US will also be temporarily impacted by the project.

The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable by utilizing an existing right of ways, directional bore methods, and existing access roads. The minimum size right of way of 30 feet wide will be maintained for access and inspection not to include the areas above the directional bore sites. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to re-plant temporary work areas with native species within the Maurepas Wildlife Management area and allow temporary work areas to re-vegetate in areas outside of the management area. Additionally the applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits from two banks within the watershed of impact that offer rehabilitation and restoration acreage of the same habitat being impacted. Finally, the applicant will also purchase an approximately 1,500-acre property adjacent to the Maurepas Wildlife Management Area to be donated to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as part of the Maurepas Management Area.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **20 days** from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral

needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of up to 0 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless

the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

JOHN M. HERMAN
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures